SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

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End At Once US-Puppet Inhuman Prison Regime

THE "tiger cages" and the detention regime in general at the Con Son prison have been scored by public opinion in the United States itself whereas in the rest of the world, indignation has reached a new high. Millions of people of various countries and social segments have raised their voices in protest against Con Son as a new Son My and Nixon as the real culprit. Once again, the hideous face of the American aggressors has been uncovered. Angry demonstrators around the world are demanding that Nixon pull out all US troops, end his aggressive war, and terminate the penitentiary regime against Vietnamese patriots.

For quite a time our people have been denouncing cruelties at Con Son jail to the world. Our Committee for Investigation of US-Puppet Crimes has published materials on the said prison regime and "tiger cages." In his reminiscences titled "The Indomitable" Mr Nguyen Duc Thuan, a resister against French aggression (1945-1954) in South Viet Nam, who spent eight straight years in Con Son after 1954, has, in a detailed fashion, recounted in what conditions patriots were detained and how they were tortured. Hundreds of others who, like Mr Nguyen Duc Thuan, experienced detention at Con Son, have spoken up, including Mr Tran Dinh Tham whose interview with our correspondent is recorded in the current issue. The data recently released by two American Congressmen and Don Luce, a member of the US Council of Churches, substantiate the above denunciation. All that shows that the infamous regime is an established fact, that in their aggressive war against our people, the US imperialists have perpetrated untold crimes reminiscent of Hitlerite fascists' at Dachau; Buchenwald and elsewhere.

Driven to a corner, the Saigon administration issued on July 21 a communique announcing the suspension of the detention of political prisoners in "tiger cages" to start repair work there. Prior to the public outcries in the United States, one still remembers, American officials in Saigon had denied the existence of "tiger cages" in Con Son, and stated there was nothing to change in the Con Son prison cells (*Reuter*, July 10). As to the Saigon authorities, they first held the detention conditions in "tiger

(*Continued page 6*)

After the rain...

Water-colour by Le Lam

...the caravan goes on

AT the invitation of the Indian Government, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, head of the Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, paid an official visit to the Republic of India.

This was an event of important political significance showing that the reasonable position of the Provisional Revolutionary Government had been gaining more and more support and its international image greater and greater lustre with every passing day, as a legitimate Government, and genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, recognized by many countries and having established diplomatic relations with most of these.

Its growing credit and widespread recognition by the world at large have had on the Saigon regime the effect of sunlight on bats. An illustration of this was recently supplied by the antics of Le Thanh Khe, Thieu's acting Consul General in India, who requested the Indian Government to arrest and hand over Madame Nguyen Thi Binh to him, well aware as he was that she was a guest of the Indian Government, President V. V. Giri and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The démarche apparently demented is understandable on the part of a "representative" of an unrepresentative "regime" with a US-made "constitutional" and "legal" face, although it was an intolerable piece of diplomatic rudeness.

But the dogs may bark, the caravan will go on.

"PACIFICATION" PUT TO A HARD TEST

"PACIFICATION" is one of US-puppet basic policies in South Viet Nam over the past fifteen years, and the backbone of the Nixon administration's "Vietnamization" which in fact amounts to prolongation of US aggression.

To implement it, American, Saigon and satellite troops have been using sophisticated weapons, every atrocious war means, terror and mass massacres coupled with deception and corruption—to herd civilians into disguised concentration camps. The Staley-Taylor plan, McNamarra's pacification plan with priority sectors, "accelerated pacification" and the current "special pacification," have produced endless lists of medieval crimes, and at the same time a succession of stinging setbacks for the aggressor and his henchmen.

Target practice

In 1969 alone, "accelerated pacification" resulted in the razing of 1,600 hamlets and the penning up of well over a hundred thousand people in "strategic hamlets" and "refugee camps." Since early this year, large populated areas, have been fiercely hit. In Ben Tre province, from January to April, the enemy launched 662 sweeps, killing and injuring 1,800 people, arresting and manhandling 800, and burning over 800 dwellings. In Ca Mau province, from September 28, 1969 to March 28, this year, the village of Khanh Lam was submitted to B-52 strikes and sprayings of chemical agents and poison gases: 510 civilians were killed or wounded, and 2,400 affected. In Bien Bach and Tri Phai villages, also in Ca Mau, the toll in April was 162 killed, mostly women, old people and children, and nearly 1,000 houses set on fire.

US destructive power has been unable however to cow the population. From early 1970 and particularly since April, together with the Liberation Armed Forces' devastating raids on adverse land, air and logistical bases, the people in concentration and urban areas have risen up to break the enemies' grip, besiege garrisons, destroy "strategic hamlets," and enlarge the liberated zone.

According to still incomplete data, from January to mid-June of the current year, with over three million attendances in various actions, people in 2,036 "strategic hamlets" and a number of provincial and district capitals wiped out 4,265 wicked thugs, 34 platoons of security agents, and disbanded more than 100,000 "civil guards" and 115 pacification teams. 1,000 hamlets came under the people's control and 350,000 civilians impounded there returned to their former dwelling places.

At the same time, in large numbers and with drum or tocsin beating, people encircled adverse garrisons and forced 245 to withdraw. They made 106 incursions into district and provincial capitals where they broke into "pacification" and security offices. In other places they cut off enemy communications.

Where the population have shattered enemy control, they are building combat villages. In mass gatherings they have proclaimed revolutionary power and held special tribunal sessions to try traitors owing heavy blood debts.

Such actions occured particularly in central and western Nam Bo and Central Trung Bo. In Nam Bo, from early January to mid-June, with a million and half participation from 1,112 'strategic hamlets' and other concentration camps, and 566 villages, the people rose up and wiped out 2,053 cruel agents, disband 3,800 civil guards and 92 pacification teams, surrounded 1,034 garrisons and forced 140 to decamp. They seized control in 691 hamlets and a number of villages which made it possible for 60,000 people to return to their native places. Meanwhile the population of our provincial capitals and 25 district centres staged uprisings and set up revolutionary power. In Central Trung Bo, the score was half a million participations from 578 'strategic hamlets', 6 villages and 13 hamlets, wicked ruffians, 34 platoons security agents, 13 pacification teams wiped out, 34 civil-guard platoons and about 1,000 members disbanded. Two civil-guard platoons went over to the people's side with their weapons. The number of garrisons invested was 236, that of posts compelled to withdraw 41, and that of hamlets and people liberated respectively 119 and 283,1000.

In Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Hue, South and East Nam Bo which the enemy claimed were "completely pacified", the masses have liquidated a sizeable number of cruel agents, dismantled 'strategic hamlets' and established revolutionary rule in many villages. When the PLAF attacked the military port of Cam Ranh, and important arm dumps at Quang Co, Ho Dat, Ba Chuoi, My Ca and other places, the people pulled down 357 'strategic hamlets' and razed or forced 41 garrisons in South Trung Bo to withdraw.

These South Vietnamese people and army's successes of strategic importance have seriously interfered with US "Vietnamization" and given the lie to Washington's and Saigon's much-advertised "progress" in pacification, to their assertion that 92% of the population had been brought under control, that the VC had been driven away, and could no longe. strike at their bases, etc. On this score, western press has been explicit. *AP* (March 19): Pacification work has been and will not be able to succeed. *AFP* (April 29): "Saigon's 18-month campaign to recover the rural areas from the hands of the Viet Cong has been forcefully countered and proved unsuccessful." In a report to the US Congress on January 20 and 21 this year, Prof. G. Kahin said: the United States claim that 67% of the South Vietnamese population were under control before *Tet* 1968, or 92% by the end of 1969 was unrealistic, and, most ironically, what was called 'secure' hamlets just met propaganda purposes. US control, wherever possible, was only temporary. Refugee centres meant to earn the respect and political allegiance of the population boomeranged on Saigon.

Nixon's "success" in pacification is therefore a mere figment of his imagination.

To save a lamentable situation, Nguyen Van Thieu put forward on July 1 a "special pacification" program which will, doubtless, reap no better results than its predecessors.

NGUYEN DE

81 tanks and armoured cars wiped out at Binh Long in one day

THE morning mist was disappearing while something was brewing in the rubber plantation west of Hon Quan town. The field telephone rang uninterruptedly followed by reports through the wire: "Everything is ready. We are waiting for orders..."

The fighters urged one another to "destroy as many armoured cars as possible." Their commanders took the last look at the preparations.

Enemy spotter planes were roaring on the top of the rubber trees. At about 9 a.m., enemy tanks rumbled cautiously on the road seeking contact with our forces. Only at 2 p.m., after many barrages of fire, did one hundred vehicles advance in two columns deep into the jungle.

At 2.30 p.m., the two enemy formations fell into our ambush: the leading tanks in the first column were blown up at the gate of village No 5; all the other vehicles turned tail. Nguyen Van Truc and his unit crossed the rubber plantation and village No 5 and made a deep thrust in the enemy unit. Nguyen Van Nhi took possession of the hill near Thap Muoi and destroyed an M. 41 tank, thus enabling gunners That and Kiet of the left flank to blast two other vehicles: meanwhile Cu and his group moved in; Nha fired a shell which hurled a tank into a ditch and Tuyen and Van wiped out two others.

Harrassed from two sides, the enemy unit took refuge in a valley, closed in upon by our men. Adverse shelling was heavy but ineffective. With his anti-tank gun, Nhi wrecked two other vehicles which caught fire. The enemy artillery from nearby posts tried to help, but, losing its bearings, it lobbed its shells at random. Buoi drew near two tanks and blew up their caterpillars with hand petards. Quyen and Tuyen set ablaze two other armoured vehicles.

The engagement was so quick and fierce that the enemy soldiers had only time to run for dear life, leaving in the field many wrecked engines and dead mates. Then a hot pursuit of tanks began.

Meanwhile, an armoured column coming from Phu Lo was intercepted by Section No 8. Afterhaving three tanks blasted out of commission by two mines, the enemy changed his direction of attack but fell into a minefield and was greeted by the fighters of Section No 7. As nimble as a squirrel, Bac wiped out six tanks with six shells, and set the record of the whole battle. The enemy column then moved to the right side of the battlefield and had three M.113 armoured cars put out of action by mines - the three other cars ran away. Arriving at a cross roads they were stopped by Nguyen Hang's anti tank group which knocked out two of them; the third one tried to flee when it was overturned by a mine.

With his heavy machine gun, Truong Dang Thuc brought down one of the planes coming to strafe and bomb the battlefield. Their formation was dispersed and they started rocketing the rubber plantation to pave the way for the advance of another armoured column. A HU-1A helicopter was hit by a tommy-gun, set on flames on the ground. The vanishing of the airplanes offered to our troops a good opportunity to harass the enemy vehicles now advancing abreast toward our positions: 5 M.41 tanks and 2 M.113 cars hit by mines caught fire. The only course left to the enemy was to call in his helicopter gunships to cover the withdrawal of the routed armoured unit. The whole rubber plantation set afire, was strewn with wreckages of 24 armoured vehicles and corpses of their American crew, which told of the heavy toll suffered by the US 11th independent armoured brigade.

In a four hours' battle at the rubber plantation west of Binh Long town, American armoured cavalry units lost 81 tanks and armoured cars, 3 planes and choppers and more than 300 GIs.

Letter from Con Tho

When flamboyants are blooming

Mai dearest,

IN my previous letter, I said that I keep should you posted with the Can Tho students and pupils' movement, which promise I am now fulfilling.

There are too many things to be told in this one letter, so I am only writing you about what happened in May last.

Mai dearest, you and I have thrown in our lots with the resistance against US aggression for quite a while now. You remember that day the flamboyants were blossoming when I was seeing you off to the maquis. Four years have elapsed, yet how many memories, how many dreams of our days at school can be conjured up by these flame-like flowers. What a privilege for them to blossom on Uncle Ho's birthday! They were seen everywhere in the streets of the town and in the school courtyard ringing with laughter and cicadas' chirping? You and I chose the most beautiful flowers and pressed them in our exercise-books as a pledge of our undying friendship.

*This summer, these scarlet flowers seemed to be blazing with the fervour of Tran Van On, Nguyen Van Troi and our sister Hong * and flared up like the flames of the struggle against the US and its agents.*

On May Day, 400 representatives of students and pupils in Western Nam Bo held a spirited convention in the Conference hall of the cultural centre to set up a committee of action and discuss many other matters.

When the congress wound up, the committeemen occupied the university building and used it as its headquarters, and poured into the streets for a demonstration, carrying such slogans as "We oppose US-puppet repression and victimization of Saigon school youth!", "Down with illegal detention!", "Release Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Students' General Association."

Taking pride in being of the number of the youth who were streaming out of the gate of the university, our friends displayed slogans which even challenged the men in the Pentagon and gave an excruciating headache to those in the White House with the "Down with US imperialism!" shouts.

Unable to curb the movement, the police, with their usual brutality, hurled tear grenades at the crowd and cordoned off the cross-roads with barbed wire entanglements. We called on them, as fellow-citizens, to join in the fight against the Yankees. Only the wicked things were exasperated. Our shock units rushed up and removed the obstacle. The demonstrators flowed forward, chanting anti-repression slogans and pelting the US agents with bricks and stones. Hoses were brought in. We were wet through and choked by smoke but went on fighting more stubbornly. Now they paraded in our beloved streets. Their songs, laughter, shouts resounded all over the market place, the school yard and as far as the enemy's lair.

The townspeople flocked out into the streets to cheer the marchers. They supplied them with towels, bread, fruit and even iron bars and stones. The young girls looked very martial with the flaps of their long tunics tied up to the waist and even laughed in the face of the enemy. This reminded me the following verses of a well-known poet:

"They held flamboyant flowers in their hands,
Crushed the American aggressors
And sang aloud a victorious insurrectional tune."

The teenagers in the western capital (Can Tho town - Ed.) nowadays have no more time for strolls on the wind-swept banks of the Hau Pha river. To day (May 4) after the Seventh Students' and Pupils' Congress, we burned Lon Nol's effigy and protested against Thieu and Ky for abetting and aiding the Cambodian traitor's massacres of Vietnamese residents. Then we, five thousand demonstrators, marched to Do Chieu Square, singing at the top of our voices peace and patriotic songs. Our fellow-countrymen were pleased to receive leaflets and to listen to our delegates talking; we had the impression that Do Chieu was there with us to remind us of his immortal line:

"To kill the traitors with our pens is no sin."

The pens of the youth, imbued with the indomitable spirit of our forefathers will write glorious pages in our history. They no longer have to jot down notes of lectures on the alien cult of the mammon of uprighteousness. The students and pupils in the western capital have associated themselves with the movements of their mates in Saigon and of workers, Buddhists and disabled servicemen in the puppet army for peace and an end to the US war of aggression and against draft, repression and terror against school youth, as a modest share in the resistance. Nguyen Van Thieu bares his teeth, but this is the last-ditch effort of a beast at bay.

The enemy is mistaken. In the three summer months, there has been a total count of over 200,000 youth in Western Nam Bo who have put aside their pens and gone up the line as shown by their "concerted school strikes" and "hungry days and sleepless nights." At present not only are school youth aware that unity is strength, but they also know how to hurl tear grenades back at combat policemen... The law of life is that "hardware should be met with hardware," isn't it, dear Mai?

Will send you other good news. See you soon at Ninh Kieu landing place, Mai!

Fondest love from
NGOC

* Three youths who died bravely fighting foreign aggressors.

Saigon teachers raise their voices

ALSO victims of the US-puppet harsh regime, teachers belonging to the Viet Nam Federation of Teachers held on July 19 a conference in Saigon to discuss measures to defend their rights and decided to publish a paper to this effect.

At the gathering, the Federation made public an impassioned letter calling on all teachers in the US-puppet - controlled zone to stand up and militiate for their vital rights. The letter read: "Let the educationists speak out their minds and set on foot a movement for the defence of their rights. The future of our country is also in the students and pupils' hands. But how to properly tend these young shoots if their teachers are forced by misery to give up their mission?"

"Whether our rights are respected or not, the letter stressed, depends on ourselves. Let us speak up our minds. Only by accumulating winds into a storm and waves into a tide shall we be strong and successful."

All the attendance voted for the letter and a petition to the Saigon authorities to meet their claims, which would give them facilities to carry on their trade.

THIEU'S "DEMOCRATIC ROOF"

THIEU always boasts of his "democracy," "constitutionality" and "legality." He staged an "election" farce. But whom could he dupe when he was exposed by none other than the Saigon press?

Following are some excerpts on Thieu's "election" farce. Wrote the weekly *Dai dan toc* (Great Nation) on July 5, 1970:

"At the voting booth before the town hall, Premier Khiem said to the press that in 1967 the population went to the polls to build a 'democratic roof.' In 1968-69 the Government (i.e. the Saigon puppet administration-*Ed.*) completed the foundation of this democratic house with communal elections."

"Small wonder that the champions of democracy feel ill at ease in such a 'democratic house.' For a house whose roof is built before its foundation is prone to collapse. On top of this, that democracy is propped up by President Thieu's recent senate election law, according to which neutralist-minded or pro-communist people are repressed or disqualified without any justification. It is very easy to label someone neutralist or pro-communist. It is also easy for the government to get evidence. Many people have been already wrongly arraigned and yet their charge sheets seem to be regular. Recently, a number of students have been arrested, tortured and their indictments faked with most horrible atrocities. It was simply superfluous to mention the neutralists and pro-communists in the election law.

"That brand of democracy has been given a new lease of life by the recent provincial, city and town elections. They were the dullest elections ever held, every one agreed. Polling was light, the voters weary. The safer the areas, the smaller the turn-out for the people there already had had a taste of this democracy and were fed up with it. 'It has reached the nauseating point,' said a representative."

In its column **"News in the form of a classical drama"** the *Dai dan toc* sneered at Thieu's "democracy" farce: "After the July 30 election, the National Insitute of Statistics carried out a poll which showed that half of the electorate had not voted, because the government-supported 'representatives' had lost all credit, and because they feared they might choose the wrong men who would sell them down the river, out of the too many candidates run by the government. Moreover, the toiling people had to spend their sundays earning some extra money as the austerity tax had made it harder to make both ends meet; the public and private employees were busy carrying passengers on their Hondas or watching soccer fans' transports to eke out their starvation wages which had not been raised for many years; all the armymen did go to the polls in compliance with orders but only 73.9 per cent of the officers did so. The rest abstained out of disgust."

In an article **"A rigged election"** the *Dai dan toc* also denounced Thieu's fraudulent, mean and coarse methods: "On direct orders from the Presidency, the heads of province and district are authorized to choose candidates. In fact, these candidates lack ability and credit. They would have not surely been returned if the elections had been fair.

Therefore, to demonstrate their loyalty to the higher authorities and get rewards, the heads of province and district use every deception to help the government-supported candidates get in. People will never be reconciled to the fact that a man rejected at a communal election three months ago is now elected to the provincial council with an overwhelming majority, that 'their' representative had to ask the authorities to open the ballot box and change voting papers or to doctor the declaration of the poll in favour of the government-supported candidates. All these manipulations point to the decline of our democracy and the collapse of our regime." The *Dai don toc's* view is of course shared by everyone.

Poulo Condor island, a hell on earth

TO thwart the aspirations for peace and independence and challenge the democratic freedoms of the South Vietnamese people, the American aggressors and their lackeys have been inflicting extremely savage terror and an inhuman penite ntiary re:ime on the patriots and ordinary people illegally arrested and detained in South Viet Nam.

Over the past sixteen years, hundreds of thousands of patriots in South Viet Nam have been murdered or tortured to incapacity and jailed by the American aggressors and their agents. At present, more than two hundred thousand people are pining in thousands of official and secret prisons throughout South Viet Nam.

Since the Nixon Administration set to implementing its "Vietnamization of the war," mounting "clear and hold" and "pacification" operations as strategic measures to realize its schemes, it has stepped up "mop-ups" to herd civilians into concentration zones in order to single out many of them for torture, imprisonment and secret liquidation. Colley, Abrams' aide for pacification has declared, "the number of detainees will go up as the pacification program develops." (Congressional Records, June 17, 1969).

It is the American imperialists who provide the money and "modern" detention and torture equipment, train and direct wicked thugs and often commit crimes against the patriots and common people arrested in South Viet Nam. They have set up the MSU mission, and through the US AID they have been organizing, training and officering policemen of fiendish cruelty in South Viet Nam. The 442,000 dollars they have spent on the prisons in South Viet Nam are not meant to improve their regime but to build many jails more solid, with more atrocious methods of detention, more refined instruments of torture, to recruit more bravos and to reward more heinous murders.

Many American newspapers have published accounts of participation of US soldiers and advisers in torturing prisoners in South Viet Nam. In the hearings of the B. Russell International Tribunal to judge war crimes, many American servicemen admitted their and their mates' cruelties against the people arrested and detained in South Viet Nam. No wonder that Frank E. Walton, head of the police advisory mission in South Viet Nam, did not want to let Amos Congressmen Augustus F. Hawkins and William R. Anderson and Don Luce, a member of the Secretariat of the World Council of Churches, visit the "tiger cages" of the Poulo Condor penitentiary for these have been built with US dollars and materials, in line with US policy and under the supervision of US advisors.

"Tiger cages" are one among the thousands of horrible means and methods used by the American aggressors and their lackeys against the patriots and common people illegally arrested and detained in South Viet Nam and have been many times denounced and condemned.

The fifth book on the US-puppets' crimes published in 1968 by the Committee for Denunciation of the American Imperialists and Their Agents' War Crimes in South Viet Nam and the communiqué of the Committee dated September 16, 1969 also dealt with the same subjects. The report of the American Enquiry Commission on Religious and Political Freedom in Viet Nam (US Congressional Records, June 17, 1969) and the article "Detention and torture in Viet Nam" by journalist Pham Tam which American representative John Conyers Jr. requested on July 8, 1969 to be inserted in the US Congressional Records also castigated the Poulo Condor "tiger cages." Below is a true picture of the Poulo Condor penitentiary and its "tiger cages."

POULO Condor is an archipelago, consisting of 14 islands large and small, the largest lying 80km southeast of the Mekong River delta and 230km from Saigon, on 8°40'57" latitude north and 106° 36' 10" longitude east, 7,628 hectares.

In the past, the French colonialists drove away the local inhabitants and turned it into Indochina's biggest penitentiary. At present, the American hirelings, from Ngo Dinh Diem to Thieu-Ky-Khiem, have consolidated it into the biggest jail in their vast network of prisons. To deceive public opinion, they have baptized it "Con Son Re-education Centre."

Early in 1967, the Saigon administration made of Poulo Condor Con Son province. Since then, the number of political prisoners has increased to 12,000 or 15,000.

Before 1964, the penitentiary had 4 prisons, comprising 42 wards. Since 1964, 4 more prisons have been built. Moreover, there are 120 "tiger cages." The most inhuman brutalities have been used there, especially in the "tiger cages."

There still are other barracks at Quang Trung, Dam and Co Ong to detain prisoners sentenced to hard labour.

To terrorize the detainees the US-puppets employ thousands of armymen, civil guards and policemen recruited among the cruellest ruffians who have lost their human feeling. In 1957, they appointed as first province chief Major Hach Van Bon, an efficient agent of the imperialist aggressors. Now, the tyrant of the island is Nguyen Van Vc. Said Nam, an assistant-manager, in 1957: "In Poulo Condor each brick has cost a man's life. We are liquidating those who refuse to denounce communists and oppose US presence" (Nguyen Thi Tho's indictment before the Bertrand Russel International Tribunal, November 26, 1970).

The United States maintains a network of "advisors" to control from the central government down to the island. 40 Americans are posted in Poulo Condor.

As the island is far from the mainland, it is under the complete rule of its masters. The regime of detention and the torture there is unmatched by any other in the world in viciousness.

The tortures are of the same kind as in other prisons but they are more sophisticated here.

In prison No 1,each ward has to accommodate 100 or even 350 people, instead of 50, its full capacity. Added to this, the toilet bucket for sanitary purposes is each room more often than not is not emptied, which gives out an intolerable stink.

Arrived on the island the detainees who have just set foot on the wharf immediately receive a thrashing.

Sometimes, before the ship comes alongside, they are thrown into the sea and rescued when they are nearly drowned, then compelled to "renounce their faith." Those who refuse to do so are again thrown into the sea. From the wharf to the prison, detainees continue to be beaten. Such a treatment is a daily occurrence. Many people die on the spot. Others turn mad or dumb. Some can no longer lie and have to remain sitting all the year round.

Other atrocious forms of torture beating with fists, stick, hammer, iron bar, glass bottle, ray-tail whip, electricity, fire, water... torture,application of red-hot iron plates, pincers on the belly, chest, and thighs; connection of life wire to the ears, nose, lips and genitals, forcing into the inmates' mouths of water mixed with soap, lime, chilli, lime water, excrement diluted in water... then treading upon their bellies with hobnailed shoes until the water or blood spurts out; putting them into a metal cask with water neck-deep then striking it with pestles, which produces splitting vibrations in the victims' brains and chests, driving nails into finger tips and toe tips, hitting at each vertebra with a small hammer.

Against the women, there are more atrocities like thrusting a stick, a chipped glass bottle into their genitals until blood gushed out, setting bloodhounds on them to tear their bodies and bite their breasts and faces...

Most cruel is the treatment meted out to children: lining them up and forcing them to keep silent and forbidding them to budge for many hours, compelling them to kneel down on a cement yard in the sun.

The US and their puppets make a combined use of medieval tortures and modern US ones to inflict most horrible sufferings on the detainees and often to incapacitate them for life.

They feed to the prisoners mouldy rice often mixed with husk, sand, pebble and rotten fish. Everyday each of them has only 1/3 or half a litre of water for all purposes. Even menstruating female detainees have no water for washing.

The detainees are not permitted to correspond with their families, read books or newspapers. Husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister in the same prison are not allowed to see each other. Various tricks are used to detect anti-governmental opinions.

Another punishment is to force the prisoners to eat only factory-processed rice, deprived of its vitamins. After one month of this diet, they can hardly move because of acute beriberi (in one case 76 out of the 80 in a prison of section one).

Sometimes they have to eat rice mixed with salt and are issued less water.

This prison regime, torture, repression and terror cause many deaths from dysentery, TB, malnutrition... In particular, many people get inflamation of the guns and black legs. In the former disease the gums swell, suppurate, stink and teeth can get ejected by a jit of coughing.

In the latter disease, the legs blacken from the feet or the hips and the patient dies when both legs are black.

Whatever their diseases, the detainees are given quinine, which causes the death of many typhoid fever cases. In section one, 30-60 people die on an average each month.

The patriots die not only from torture and corporal punishment but also in mass murders. Once on US-puppet orders the soldiers rounded up the prisoners in the yard of section six, zone four, and fired at them, killing and wounding many people (March 1969).

An inmate of Con Son jail denounces...

ONE of our correspondents has recently interviewed Mr Tran Dinh Tham, 45, a native of My Thang village, Phu My district, Binh Dinh province. He had been jailed by US-puppet authorities in many prisons, including Con Son. He told our correspondent about various atrocities he had experienced, and seen inflicted on other inmates by US-puppet agents. His story:

"...I am a farmer by profession. On July 15, 1955, I was arrested at about midnight and was sent to the Tra Quang Jail in Phu My district. There I was told to put my signature to a heap of papers where were already written declarations and confessions of alleged crimes of opposition to 'the state.' As I refused to comply, I was immediately put to torture. They beat me with rifle butts and cudgels, trampled upon my chest and abdomen with their hobnailed shoes, filled my mouth with water, my nose and ears with lime, and my eyes with chilli juice. I lost consciousness many times.

On Aug. 2, 1955, they sent me to Bong Son and passed me onto Regiment 32 to be tortured again for more than one month. In February 1956, they sent me to the jail of the Security Service of Binh Dinh province. I was detained there for over a year. On April 24, 1957, I was deported to Con Son Island.

In the mainland jails, I was put to the following tortures:

1. — 'Water cask': I was put neck deep into a cask of water. They struck hard at the vessel with a muffled wooden pestle. A heavy shock was generated, which racked my heart and my whole body. I felt a heavy weight on my spleen and could not stand up again. When I lay down, I had the sensation of being hurled into a deep ditch.

2. — 'Punching ball': I was hung by a cable by my big toes, then four soldiers standing at four corners punched me as they would a ball.

3. — 'Sub-marine trip': I was tied to a long bench, face up. They filled my mouth with soap water, lime, chilli juice and other filthy liquids until I fainted.

Besides, I was put to the electric treatment, my fingers and toes were planted with nails, my thighs and cheeks were gripped by red-hot pincers (to mention only a few other horrors.

When I arrived at Con Son,

I was told by Captain Nam right at my first meeting with him: 'This is Con Son. I was made a captain precisely because I know a great variety of tortures. I have drunk alcohol with bits of human liver dipped in human blood.'

Then he visited on me the same tortures as in the mainland jails. Later, new kinds were used on me which were peculiar to Con Son Island. I was put to torture at any time they chose, but more commonly at midnight. They carved each day some bit of flesh off my thighs or the softest places of my body. They forced me and other prisoners to do extremely strenuous work at stone quarries or lime-kilns, sometimes three, four or seven days on end. They gave us a very bad food but every week, they compelled us to go and fetch timber or do other heavy work for the jail overseer. We received no clothes except a loin-cloth which we wore all the time. We had our hair cut only twice a year.

Towards the end of 1958, they accused me of the crime of opposition to 'the state' and of intelligence with the Communists, for which they impounded me in a 'tiger cage.'

There were two rows of such concrete cages — 30 in each row. The cages were so small that the prisoners could hardly lie down with his two legs stretched. On top there were bars and over it a narrow catwalk from which the guards could watch the prisoners.

Before throwing us into the 'tiger cages', they stripped us and gave us a sound thrashing until insensibility. In those narrow cages, they kept from 3 to 7 people. The prisoners had their legs shackled together. The cages were at the same time bathrooms and toilets. As we were often left to starve, we had to look for vermins and ate them. It was not rare either that we drank our own urine. As the cages had corrugated iron roofs, they were extremely hot by day and cold by night. That did not prevent the jail guards from pouring or making water at night all of a sudden on the inmates' heads. Almost every hour they would throw stones or excrements on us, thereby keeping us in a constant state of tension and fear.

Four times in a week, the jail overseer sent soldiers to give the prisoners a beating followed by a 'water-drenching' session. In the cages, one always smelt a nauseating stink of sewage, urine and excrement. If we were not beaten with sticks, that meant the turn came for other kinds of torture wreaked on us by 'specialists' under the supervision of American 'advisers.' Each torture session began with a rehearsal of old methods, then followed up with new ones, until we swooned and had to be brought back to the cages by guards and soldiers. When we came to ourselves, they gave us food which was some rice thrown through a small opening into the cages. The grains of rice were scattered all over the ground mixed with dust and sand. There was also some rotten fish pickle mingled with filthy water. The prisoners had to pick up the rice grain by grain.

We were forbidden to talk to one another in the cages. If we were caught talking, tortures would start at once. We were prohibited from seeing members of our families, from writing letters, reading newspapers. When we fell sick, we received no care and no medicine.

No inmate of the cages was immune to scabies. We fell victims to other diseases too.

Almost everyday someone died. The guards often forced the prisoners to look on when they tortured others to death. In 1960-1961, in the course of a terror drive in the tiger cages, they tortured to death Le from Binh Thuan, Bay Tan from Quang Ngai, mrs Ai from Ben Tre and Bong from Phu Yen, and others in 1960-1961.

As far as I know, inmates of 'tiger cages' included also women and children. I cannot tell the exact 'tiger cage' population, because when I was there I was put to continual and most harsh tortures. But when I was jailed in other prisons of Con Dao Island, I knew that the number of prisoners there totalled from 12,000 to 15,000.

Even now I have not entirely recovered and still feel very feeble.

I want to denounce to public opinion the barbarities committed by the US and puppets against detained patriots. I hope that world progressive will join efforts with us, South Vietnamese, and compel them to put an end to the war and to all the horrors they have been inflicting on detained patriots."

NIXON, the South Viet Nam gaoler

IN recent days, world public opinion has been outraged by revelations on the cruelties of the Americans and their South Viet Nam quislings, especially in the Con Son (formerly Poulo Condor) island penitentiary.

Last July 9, a delegation of the **Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, the Committee for Support to the Vietnamese People and the Japan-Viet Nam Friendship Association,** addressed a petition to Nguyen Van Thieu care of his Tokyo Embassy. The petition strongly protested against the horrible atrocities inflicted on the Con Son prison inmates and demanded that they be immediately ended.

In Geneva, the **International Red Cross Society** issued a protest against Saigon's allegation that, after investigations, it had found penitentiary conditions in Con Son island "satisfactory." "These," the declaration pointed out, "did not correspond to the standards set forth by the International Red Cross Society."

Also in Geneva the **International Lawyers' Association** called for an investigation into Con Son prison regime.

Meanwhile, speaking at a reception, **Dr Absch Alexander, Vice Premier of the German Democratic Republic,** emphasized: "In the last days, the world's peoples have been horrified by the brutalities of the Americans and their valets in Poulo Condor. The real culprit of these crimes is US imperialism."

Newspapers in the capitals and provinces as well as news agencies and radio and T.V. stations of many countries gave ample details on the atrocities in Con Son, Thu Duc, Chi Hoa and Cam Lo and other prisons in South Viet Nam. Frontpages bore banner headlines like: "10,000 patriots in Con Son hell," "Con Son — a new Son My," "Nixon: the real responsible for Con Son atrocities," "Nixon's Vietnamization: Con Son," "Fettered inmates of tiger cages," etc. Under these headlines were photographs of tiger cage cells, prisoners hung up by their feet, torture sessions where 15 to 70-year-old detainees were manhandled by thugs, women outraged, and so on.

On July 17, **Majory Nelson,** an American woman doctor assigned to attend to political prisoners in South Viet Nam, *AP* reported, testified against the harsh penitentiary regime in Quang Ngai before the Foreign Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives. She revealed that patriots jailed in that province had been most cruelly tortured. She said that inmates of an interrogation centre had been submitted to electric shock, preferably at night to produce nerve reactions such as shivering and high temperatures, particularly in women. Dr Nelson added that political prisoners of this centre told her that electric current has been applied to women's breasts and genitals.

In an 11-page letter to the US president, **William R. Anderson,** one of the two members of the House of Representatives who had uncovered the "tiger cages" in Con Son prison, said that "this camp could become as infamous as Nazi Germany's death camps at Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald." He added that there might be 1,000 prisoners in Con Son "tiger cages" and several thousand others in "cattle cages" which are reportedly similar to the "tiger cages." Mr Anderson urged Nixon to send a special task force to Viet Nam within 48 hours for on scene investigations to "prevent further degradation and death" of prisoners.

On July 13, in Washington, an American group of war dissenters just back from a visit to South Viet Nam said that they had witnessed "extreme political repression" with "police and agents everywhere." Dr **Richard Hunter,** Deputy Secretary G[illegible]al of the National Council of [illegible]hes, said that the [illegible] "did not [illegible] who supported [illegible] or who felt [illegible] was necessa[illegible] "The thing [illegible] to find [illegible] fascism."

At a press conference held by Representative William R. Anderson in Washington, **Robert K. Harris,** an American illegally detained by military authorities in Saigon's jail, disclosed that 6,000 South Vietnamese patriots were kept there. He observed that there was practically no difference between the conditions in the Con Son and in the other prisons, the detainees being subjected to an equally harsh [illegible]ment. "Food [illegible] Harris said, "is [illegible] facilities, prisoners [illegible] horse troughs and [illegible] were almost [illegible]

The world press [illegible]ed on atrocities re[illegible]ons themselves.

The British *Gu[illegible]* [illegible]: "The [illegible]ountry [illegible] been further [illegible] of people ev[illegible]re in [illegible] since Americ[illegible] degraded [illegible] Nam.

The *Daily Te[illegible]*: The revelation that the Saigon administration hel[illegible]ical prisoners in horrible "tiger [illegible] Poulo Condor [illegible] will [illegible] its already [illegible]

The *Frankfurt Zei[illegible]* (July 8): The US-Saigon penitentiary regime in Viet Nam is "the most barbarous in the world today. Con Son is a typical kind of prison in the civil world of the dictatorial rule in Saigon."

Le Monde (France): "The hideous face of the Saigon world is being uncovered. Washington must put an immediate end to this criminal farce."

Népszabadság (Hungary) is denouncing that the presence of American imperialism in South Viet Nam is [illegible] after an aggressive [illegible] defeating the effort of a people for independence and freedom the paper made this appeal: "Let us raise our voices against the war criminals and [illegible]ge murderers — Nixon, the [illegible] imperialists and their lackeys [illegible] South Viet Nam."

Trybuna Ludu of Labours (Poland): "The prisoners there are shut up in tiger cages too small for them to live. The unfortunate receive too scanty food which, added to diseases and the lack of air, has exacted a heavy death tool. They cannot even move after being released."

The Peasants (German Democratic Republic): "The United States is to be blamed for the Con Son prison [illegible] the world's worst. US [illegible] for this penitentiary [illegible] to 442,000 dollars."

L'Humanité (France): "In Saigon as in all capitals crowded with Americans, for instance in some Latin American countries, the local administration is controlled by the FBI, the 'Green Berets' or the CIA. These can interfere at any moment. Speaking more concretely, in Saigon the Americans have their own people on the National Security Agency and in all prisons and detention camps."

From his window

NHAN was a third-year student of the Faculty of Letters.

He lived in Room No 5 on the first floor of a three-storey building in Phan Dinh Phung Avenue. The room was about 30 square metres, looking on the avenue, with a pot of lily and a pot of jessamine at two ends of the balcony. A green bamboo blind hung at the door. Beside the window stood a table with a flower-vase on it. Sitting at his table Nhan could see everything in the street. Opposite to the window, above a book case was hung a drawing by Nhan of a Hanoi girl mate who had moved here like him from the North in 1954.

Back from the Faculty, he usually read at the table or relaxed on a sofa gazing at the picture. On moonlit nights he would play the guitar near the window. He was fond of traditional music but liked also such modern works by North Viet Nam composers (given by a Vietnamese resident in France) as "The song of hope," "Love in a letter." Nhan shied away from the streets for he hated seeing M-16 totting Americans, puppets or satellites strutting haughtily and indulging in no end of offences in his city...

Tonight, he was nervously waiting for Hien. Suddenly a thumping of hurried hobnailed shoes indicated that some GIs were after a girl... Turning about, Nhan flung off his cigarette and went to the rofo. As in similar cases, blood came to his head and sweat moisted his forehead. He thought of Hien now riding fast to her rendez-vous. Then the scene down in the street and the strikes of his fellow-students flashed through his mind. On the wall the gentle eyes of the girl seemed also to ask him: When will you make up your mind?

SOMEBODY knocked at the door.

"Is that you, Hien?"

"Yes."

"Why are you so late?"

"I'll tell you. Don't assail me with questions now."

"I'm cross."

"At the Yankee gorillas chasing girls?"

"Yes. Now tell me what you have done this evening."

"Well, all the boys have gone on strike against draft and military training. The girls have been requested to enlist as first-aiders, nurses, but none of them has complied. We have been summoned by the superintendent, a major in Thieu's "Mad Buffalo" unit.

Nhan distractedly gazed into the street. Through the window the wind blew in and unruffled their hair. At last, he heaved a heavy sigh:

"It is hard to study indeed. In my section, many people have given up learning. Some have asked me to join the 'Alliance against Communism.' I only want to study, but they don't leave me alone. There is no way out, Hien!"

Laying her hand on a book on the table, the girl said:

"I told you in Mau Than spring that the liberation fighters had attacked the 'Independence Palace' and all the 380 Saigon streets, but you wavered and wanted to graduate first and now..."

"It is too late, isn't it? But let's forget about it!"

"No, it is not, we still have plenty of time. Now you can't get your degree anyhow, you will be drafted, and once in the puppet army, will you obey the Mad Buffaloes' orders?"

"No, I'll not do that, Hien! But I'll think it over for my whole life is at stake."

"You are right. You'll be sorry for any false step. My folks had made a false step in leaving Hanoi. My father committed suicide, having gone bust. My brother died a senseless death in action, as a puppet armyman. My mother has been making every sacrifice to send me to school. But the diploma is no longer within my reach. Moreover, it wouldn't be of any use in this situation. I should have been ashamed without it if I were still in Hanoi. By the way, I have heard on Hanoi Radio that all my friends there had graduated. Now they are like eagles flying off to all corners of the Fatherland, the papers of some of them having even attracted the attention of the Council of Sciences. What a mistake to have come here!"

All of a sudden, shouts were heard in the street: "Help! Help!"

"A girl is kidnapped by the Yanks!"

Notwithstanding the shrill police whistle warning, the crowd increased.

"Move on! Move on! There is nothing the matter," ordered the cops.

"Down with the kidnappers! Down with the rapists!" people shouted.

Standing beside Nhan on the balcony, Hien said:

"That is what Saigon is like now. We have to fend for ourselves."

"Sometimes I think so. But..."

"Why this 'but'? Have you forgotten that quotation you made from Han Fei Tzu: failure to know that one's country is under a foreign rule is insanity, failure to join the fighting while knowing so is disloyalty, and failure to sacrifice oneself while fighting is cowardice?"

"That I understand. But on what front can I fight, a weakling as I am?"

"In Saigon, the battlefield is everywhere, and everybody can fight US aggression. Troi's battlefield is right in the Chi Hoa execution ground, Vinh's battlefield, Tu's and Thang's in the dock of the fascist tribunal, and your battlefield, after me, is near this window. What matters is that you must have a battlefield in your heart, then you can build strongholds everywhere to wipe out the enemy!"

Nhan was apparently listening to Hien ... but in fact he was fancying himself as a Liberation fighter combating in this very street and laying down his life here.

"Take me to your commander," he urged Hien. With a deep sigh, the girl answered in a voice clear as crystal, "But you need not meet the commander as yet...."

"We are a big army."

The night was well advanced and the curfew was approaching. Hien stroked her hair wet with mist. Nhan shook her hand vigorously.

"The lily is about to bloom. It is a good omen," exclaimed the boy.

"It will blossom to greet your feat!," smiled the girl.

H. hour was coming. Everything was plunged in darkness. A policeman stared at Nhan's motorcycle then tore his eyes away. The Honda raced past Nguyen Trai Avenue, then Bach Dang wharf. Arrived near the US Navy HQ, Nhan undid the safety pin of his petard, jumped off and let the motorcycle roll in toward the entrance. Meanwhile, another Honda came and picked him up. A deafening explosion was heard at the HQ. The sentry aimed at Nhan but a brief round from a motorcyclist coming from Tu Do Street cut him down. Cops blew their whistles. The military police rushed in and chased the Hondas in the streets. But at this moment, on the first floor of three-storey house in Phan Dinh Phung Avenue Nhan and the unit commander were waiting for Hien to report on the results of the raid. Forty-five minutes after the raid, the Hanoi girl came in with a bunch of flowers, saying that two storeys had collapsed, sixty American officers had been killed or injured amidst the elation of the people.

Shaking hands with Hien and Nhan, the commander gladly said: "Well done, that is more than we expected. I will report to my superiors. Comrade Nhan has done a very good job!" Then he handed the bouquet to the boy and picked out the most beautiful one for Hien.

Through the window, one could see groups of GIs and puppets scouring the avenue.

PHUONG LAN

End At Once...

(*Continued from page 1*)

cages" as normal and justified, and that efforts had been made to improve them (*UPI*, July 9). So, only now do the Americans and their valets admit that "tiger cages" did exist and that they had something to do with the Con Son "tiger cages" affair.

Announcement of the repairing of "tiger cages" at Con Son does not at all mean termination of the savage detention regime. Neither does it imply the desire of the US-puppets to meet the urgent demand of public opinion. Such cages do not only exist at the Con Son gaol. What is at issue is the cruel penitentiary regime prevailing in all South Viet Nam, and the South Viet Nam itself is a great "tiger cage;" that is what the Vietnamese people and world opinion sternly denounce and condemn. What is imperative is an instant end to the inhumam treatment of all patriots and release of all detainees.

LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT'S MEMORANDUM

ON the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the signing of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front on July 22, 1970, has issued a memorandum regarding the escalation of the US war of aggression in Laos and the settlement of the Lao problem.

The memorandum pointed out:

1 – US intervention and aggression and its systematic sabotage of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

2 – Application of the Nixon doctrine and escalation of the war and aggression in Laos.

3 – The struggle for self-defence of the Lao people and the goodwill for peace of the Lao patriotic forces on their settlement of the Lao problem.

Following are excerpts from the part three:

The US imperialists have conducted a war of aggression against the Lao people, hence the Lao people must wage a struggle for self-defence. To fight for self-defence is an inviolable sacred right of the Lao people and any other people in the world. The Lao people have resisted the acts of aggression and sabotage by the US and henchmen to defend their fundamental national rights recognized by the 1962 Geneva Agreements and to defend those agreements themselves.

The struggle for self-defence of the Lao people is an integral part of the struggle against the US imperialists for national salvation of the peoples of the Indochinese countries. Facing the same enemy – the US imperialist aggressors – the fraternal Lao, Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples have always united in struggle and supported one another. The struggle against the US imperialists for national salvation of the Lao people is also an inseparable part of the struggle for national independence, peace and democracy of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and has made worthy contributions to that glorious struggle.

The just struggle full of glorious victories of the Lao people has enjoyed strong encouragement and support from the peoples and governments of the socialist countries, the peoples and governments of the nationalist countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and from all the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world including the American people.

While resolutely fighting against the US imperialists and their stooges, for a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos, the Lao patriotic forces and people have always upheld their will for peace, persistently seeking a political solution to the Lao problem. The Lao Patriotic Front has many times put forth proposals and taken the initiative of sending its high-powered and competent representatives to attend meetings and peace talks among the Lao parties concerned, organized within the country or abroad. These talks have so far failed to reach any success due to the sabotage by the US and its agents. The Lao Patriotic Front has persistently maintained its Representation in Vientiane despite the fact that the US and its henchmen have organized frequent encirclements and provocations against it. The 12-point Political Program of the Lao Patriotic Front has clearly reflected the goodwill for peace of the Lao patriotic forces and people.

In face of the present strained situation and the US "special war" in Laos, and the necessity to seek a correct solution to the Lao question that conforms to the national interests of the Lao people and the interests of peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia, and after the Lao patriotic forces had shattered the greatest war effort made by the Nixon administration in the Plain of Jars – Xieng Khouang area, the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee on March 6, 1970 issued a 5-point statement on a political solution to the Lao problem.

The 5-point political solution enunciated in the Statement is very sensible and reasonable. It is consistent with the realities of the situation in Laos and the fundamentals of the 1962 Geneva Agreements, creating the correct basis for a peaceful settlement of the Lao question.

In face of the proposal full of goodwill put forward by the Lao Patriotic Front, the US continues to show its obstinacy by going ahead with the escalation of its war of aggression and intensifying the bombing of Laos' territory. Meanwhile, Prince Souvanna Phouma remains devious and negative in his attitude. He has sought every means to elude the question of complete and unconditional ending of the US bombing of Laos' territory, a legitimate and urgent demand of the Lao people and the world's public.

Up to now, the peaceful settlement of the Lao problem on the basis of the Lao Patriotic Front's 5-point proposal has made no progress. No conditions have been created for the Lao parties concerned to meet at the same table, the immediate obstacle being the continuation of the US bombing of Laos' territory.

In his message to Prince Souvanna Phouma on June 12, 1970, Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the LPF Central Committee, pointed out: "I reaffirm that the 5-point statement on March 6, 1970 by the Lao Patriotic Front constitutes the correct basis for the settlement of the Lao problem. The LPF is ready to meet the other parties concerned immediately for the complete and unconditional cessation of the US bombardments against Laos' territory."

This was a new effort full of goodwill made by the LPF in the settlement of the Lao problem. To reciprocate this new effort of the LPF, Prince Souvanna Phouma must adopt a serious attitude and stop eluding the question of ending the US bombings on Laos. If Prince Souvanna Phouma refuses to free himself from the pressure by the US and the ultra-reactionaries in Vientiane and keeps pleading for the escalation of the US war of aggression and the intensified bombing against Laos' territory, he will have to bear full responsibility for the consequences of his actions.

Since the US has committed intervention and aggression in Laos and sabotaged the 1962 Geneva Agreements, it must stop its intervention and aggression, end its sabotage of the Geneva Agreements, and thoroughly respect these agreements; it absolutely has no right to bomb the territory of Laos, an independent and sovereign country. Since the US has conducted the bombings of Laos' territory, it must put a halt to the bombing without posing any conditions. The cessation of US bombings will create favourable climate for the Lao parties concerned to meet at an early date.

Should the Nixon administration stubbornly continue to escalate its war of aggression and increase bombing raids on Laos' territory, it would have totally answer for all sequels of these acts. Exercising their legitimate right to self-defence, the Lao patriotic forces and people are resolved to counter all acts of war escalation taken by the Nixon administration, and will deal more stinging blows at the US aggressors and their lackeys if they obdurately commit more crimes.

The Lao Patriotic Front earnestly calls upon the governments of the signatories to the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos, the governments of the peace- and justice-loving countries, the international democratic organizations, the American people and the world's peoples at large to give stronger support to the Lao people's just struggle, to resolutely demand that the Nixon administration strictly implement the 1962 Geneva Agreements, stop its intervention and aggression in Laos, first and foremost, and its war escalation and put a complete and unconditional end to the bombing of Laos' territory.

In the light of the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, with widespread and vigorous approval and support from the peace- and justice-loving people in the world, the entire Lao people, united millions as one man, overcoming all difficulties, enduring every sacrifice and standing shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Vietnamese and Khmer peoples, will certainly defeat the US aggressors and realize a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos, thereby doing their share in making Indochina a genuinely independent and peaceful area.

Thieu Gets a Left-Hander from Lon Nol

ON the stage, puppets, whatever the make-up, look almost alike to the spectators. On the political scene, however, United States puppets always want to show themselves primus inter pares. *And of course such a state of things upsets Washington's plans.*

Of late, everyone remembers, Saigon's second most important marionnette Nguyen Cao Ky flew to Phnom Penh and Bangkok to campaign for a tripartite military alliance, in implementation his American boss's "Nixon doctrine."

It was in effect Ky's intention to hill two birds with one stone, namely, to steal the limelights from his confederates in Cambodia and Thailand, and escape the hold of Saigon's No. 1 marionnette – Nguyen Van Thieu.

Thereupon, on July 17, a "small summit" meeting took place at Neak Luong where Thieu shrugged off the idea of a military alliance between Saigon, Bangkok and Phnom Penh. Back home, Thieu went to the length of stating that Ky had nipped the alliance in the bud (AFP July 19). Conceivably, the "Vice President" who considers himself the greatest political figure in the "Republic of Viet Nam" will never forget such a kick from his rival.

Relations between Saigon and Phnom Penh puppets are not better. Put on the boards long before his counterpart in Cambodia, and having taken a leaf from his former boss Lyndon B. Johnson's book of political etiquette, Thieu wanted to show that Saigon now played the leading part in the defence of Indochina. This accounted for the fact, said an American correspondent, that he chose to come and meet Lon Nol at Neak Luong, a big base of Saigon marines in the neighbouring kingdom. Puppet Lon Nol, too, meant to appear as the first among equals. He sent out his deputy to welcome Thieu at the airport and take him to a place of his choice for a reception. Diamond cut diamond.

Stories of puppets dealing one another left-handed punches have not wound up at Neak Luong. To give lit for tat is a rule among traitors. This augurs ill of the Nixon doctrine's future.

In US:

IN co-ordination with the action of anti-war servicemen in other localities of the US, the GIs at Benning base (Georgia) set up a people's court to denounce the crimes of the US government and war speculators who had systematically killed the South Vietnamese people, sent to death thousands of GIs and squandered yearly over 30 billion of the American people.

Representatives of "mothers against the war," an anti-war organization of 150,000 American women have come to the American Congress and called on the senators and representatives to back the amendment bill of Senators McGovern and Hatfield setting the deadline of withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam in June 1971.

The congress of the Democratic Party in Utah adopted a new program demanding immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina. A resolution of the congress protested against the impressment of American youths and their sending to Viet Nam and the police and federal guards crushing the struggle of university students.

USSR SUPREME SOVIET condemns US aggression in Indochina

According to TASS, at its first session on July 15 in Moscow, the USSR Supreme Soviet, Eighth Legislature, unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning the US imperialists' war intensification in Indochina.

The statement pointed out:

THE aggression by the United States of America against the freedom-loving peoples of the Indochinese peninsula is entering a new, dangerous stage. After engineering the coup d'etat in Phnom Penh, the American government has extended the flame of its criminal war to neutral Cambodia, thus further aggravating the international situation and jeopardizing peace in South-East Asia.

The broadening of US aggression to Cambodia followed its aggression in Viet Nam and its armed intervention in Laos...

The fruits of the industrious labour of the Khmer people are being barbarously destroyed. Schools, hospitals, cultural works and rubber plantations were razed. The withdrawal of US troops from Cambodia, an imperialist propaganda ploy, cannot cover the evident fact that US is pursuing its intervention in that country by the agency of its accomplice in using US aircraft and other military techniques.

US troops have brazenly trampled upon the international agreements on the neutrality of Laos, preventing the various political groups in this country from reaching an agreement on the basis of the programme for a political settlement of the Lao problem expounded in the declaration of the Lao Patriotic Front on March 6, 1970.

The latest events in Indochina again revealed US imperialism's plans for colonialist aggression. To quell the national liberation movement of the peoples in the Indochinese peninsula, impose neo-colonialist regimes on these countries and turn the whole of Indochina into a US military and stategic stronghold in South-East Asia, these are criminal goals for which American imperialism has committed bloody crimes in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

In trying to reduce the losses of American troops, the present US administration has been stubbornly trying to place on the Asian peoples all the burden of the war it has launched against them. It has been endeavouring to implement its criminal plans through the traitorous bureaucrats, puppet troops and mercenaries. The "Guam doctrine" of the US aimed at making "Asians fight Asians" is precisely intended to further these goals.

The "Vietnamizing" the war in South Viet Nam now undertaken by the US government and its attempts to set up a Saigon—Bangkok—Phnom Penh military bloc while carrying out the Cambodia adventure are concrete manifestations of this policy.

In face of the danger of enslavement by imperialism, the fighting people in the Indochinese peninsula are closing their ranks. The Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference convened last April solemnly declared that from now on, the genuine patriotic forces representing the 80 million people in the Indochinese peninsula would co-ordinate their efforts in the common struggle against the common enemy. The struggle of the Indochinese peoples against US imperialism and its satellites is a shining example of courage and sang-froid. It is inspiring the peoples fighting for national independence, social progress and peace to win new exploits and face up to the imperialist policy of oppression, neo-colonialism and war.

Loyal to the peace-loving Leninist foreign policy, the Soviet Union resolutely condemns the American aggression in Indochina. The Soviet people side with the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples who are waging a resistance full of sacrifices against aggression, for the freedom and independence of their countries. In fulfilment of its sacred international duty, the Soviet Union gives a maximum support to the national liberation movement.

The USSR Supreme Soviet fully approves the policy and activities of the Soviet Government with regard to the support given to the Indochinese peoples in their struggle against the imperialist aggression. Fraternally uniting with the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, the Soviet people demand the cessation of the acts of aggression of the US government in Indochina.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh visits the Republic of India

AT the invitation of Swaran Singh, Minister for External Relations of the Republic of India, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, arrived in New Delhi on July 18.

Meeting Mme Nguyen Thi Binh at the airport were Surendra Span Singh, Deputy Foreign Minister, representing the Foreign Ministry, and other high-ranking officials of the Indian Foreign Ministry. Welcoming her were also the Acting Consul General of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, ambassadors of the socialist countries, newly-independent countries, and countries having diplomatic relations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government as well as diplomatic representatives of other countries. Many Indian members of Parliament, leaders of political parties, prominent personalities, leaders of mass organizations were also present.

Thousands of New Delhians carrying flags, flowers and streamers had gathered at the airport. They waved flags and chanted: "Long live Viet Nam!", "Long live Ho Chi Minh!", "Heroic Viet Nam will surely win!", "Down with the US imperialist aggressors!".

Speaking at the airport, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh expressed the hope that her visit to India would help increase mutual understanding and friendship between the Vietnamese and Indian peoples.

On the evening of July 18, the Secretary of the Ministry of External Relations T.N. Con, the Chief of the Protocol, the Head of the South-Asian Department called on Minister Nguyen Thi Binh.

On the morning of July 20, President of the Republic of India V.V. Giri received the distinguished guest. Also present was State Minister to the Presidency Nagendra Singh.

After conveying to President V.V. Giri the greetings of Dr Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Central Committee, President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and of Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Government of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh posted the Indian President on the South Vietnamese people's just fight against US aggression and the position of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. Then she stressed the determination of the South Vietnamese people to fight to a finish, until recovery of their fundamental national rights.

President V.V. Giri expressed his concern in, and sympathy with, the patriotic effort for independence and freedom of the South Vietnamese people. Then he voiced the confidence that the people of North and South Viet Nam battling side by side would attain their legitimate goals.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh thanked President V.V. Giri for his interest in the developments in Viet Nam and handed him a present from President Nguyen Huu Tho.

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in brief ⋆ in brief

• North Korea's mass organizations: Fatherland United Democratic Front, Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, Korean-Vietnamese Friendship Association, Committee of Support for Viet Nam against US Aggression, Committee of Support for the Vietnamese People's Struggle and Committee to struggle against the US Imperialists' Crimes in Viet Nam have decided to hold a "Week of support to the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation" on the occasion of July 20, anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

In this week, the Korean people will stage throughout their country such actions of solidarity with the Vietnamese people as meetings to condemn US prolongation of the aggressive war against Viet Nam, further strengthen their friendship and militant solidarity with the fraternal Vietnamese people in their heroic effort against US aggression.

• Recently, in Berlin, the Party Executive and the administrative committee of the Bantzen autonomous zone have called a solidarity meeting in support of the valiant Vietnamese people and against US aggression.

The gathering unanimously passed a petition strongly castigating the US imperialists' aggression in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, condemning the West German administration's backing of the US, and demanding that the US and satellite troops be immediately, wholly and unconditionally withdrawn from Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

• A dispatch from Copenhagen reported that on the anniversary of the US aggressive war against Korea, more than 400 people from all walks of life in the Danish Capital staged a demonstration in front of the US Embassy to protest against American illegal occupation of South Korea, and the US dirty war in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

The demonstrators carried many flags of the South Viet Nam Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic and swastikaed stars and stripes. Moreover, they also displayed many streamers reading: "Down with the American aggressors!", "US get out of South Viet Nam!", "Long live the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation!"

• 63.8 per cent of the 392 Black soldiers interviewed by the *New York Times* thought that their fight was in the United States. They "are fed up with fighting and death." The paper feared that a great number of Black soldiers returning from Viet Nam with an experience in guerilla tactics would join armed insurgents to struggle for the rights they are deprived of in the United States.